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FOR AMBASSADORS/CHARGES FROM THE SECRETARY OF STATE

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SUBJECT: ROLLOUT OF THE 2009 TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS REPORT

¶1. Today, we release our annual report on trafficking in persons. The Obama Administration views the fight against human trafficking, both at home and abroad, as a critical piece of our foreign policy agenda. We are committed to making progress on this issue in the months ahead by working closely with partners in every country and every sector?from national and local governments to NGOs, businesses, and individuals. To do this, we need your help.

¶2. I am counting on all of you around the world to take the lead in the fight against modern slavery. We need you to communicate to the world that the Obama Administration is determined to advance global efforts to end human trafficking. We need you to find ways to strengthen existing partnerships and seek new opportunities. And we want your ideas and insights from the field. Your knowledge is invaluable to this effort.

¶3. As you know, human trafficking has a broad global impact. It weakens legitimate economies, fuels violence, threatens public health and safety, shatters families, and shreds the social fabric that is necessary for progress. It undermines our long-term efforts to extend peace and prosperity worldwide. And it is an affront to our basic values and our fundamental belief that all people everywhere deserve to live and work in safety and dignity.

¶4. To end modern slavery, we need to address its root causes, including poverty, lax law enforcement, and the exploitation of women. We also need to deal with its devastating effects on its victims and their families. Trafficking demands a comprehensive approach based on the Four Ps: protecting victims, prosecuting criminals, preventing slavery, and building partnerships.

¶5. The United States currently funds 140 anti-trafficking programs in nearly 70 countries, as well as 42 domestic task forces that bring together state and local authorities and non-governmental organizations to combat trafficking and forced labor. We are proud of the work that we do, but we know how much more must be done?especially in the midst of the current financial crisis, which makes desperate people more susceptible to the false promises of traffickers, tempts unscrupulous bosses to take advantage of vulnerable workers, and leaves organizations and government agencies around the world with fewer resources to stop them.

¶6. The Trafficking in Persons Report is not an indictment of past failures, but a guide for future progress. It includes examples of steps taken against trafficking worldwide?for example, in Congo, where an army officer was convicted in a ground-breaking case for forcing children to serve as soldiers? or in Colombia, where the government has pioneered a comprehensive operations center that tasks agents to investigate trafficking allegations and ensures that victims receive rehabilitative services? or in Jordan, where the Ministry of Labor has established a fund to provide trafficking victims with food, housing, and legal aid.

¶7. The report also details the global nature of trafficking?a crime that involves every nation on the planet, including our own. To coincide with this year's global trafficking in persons report, the Department of Justice is releasing its own report, which describes the problem of human trafficking in

the United States and offers recommendations for how we can do a better job of fighting it.

¶8. The repercussions of human trafficking are shared by all nations. The responsibility to address trafficking must be shared as well. We want to support our partners in their work and find ways to improve our own by engaging across the board? with other governments as well as civil society groups and individuals, to encourage the kind of grassroots movement that we will need to defeat trafficking once and for all.

¶9. Your hard work and leadership is crucial to this effort, and I look forward to hearing your ideas and following your progress on this issue in the coming months.

¶10. Together, we can help build a world in which no one anywhere is forced to live in chains.

¶11. Minimize considered.

CLINTON